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Gr 36

10/4/00
P.M.PATENT APPLICATION

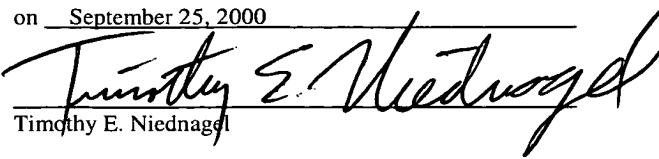
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#6

Group: 3628 }
 Atty. Docket: 8266-0150 }
 Applicants: Eckstein et al. }
 Invention: HYDRAULIC CONTROL }
 APPARATUS FOR A }
 HOSPITAL BED }
 Serial No.: 09/311,466 }
 Filed: May 13, 1999 }
 Examiner: Unknown }

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on September 25, 2000

 Timothy E. Niednagel
Dated: September 25, 2000

From 09/31/466

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicant calls attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicant and its attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 1.56(b).

REMARKS

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.



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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-0150 | SERIAL NO. 09/311,466 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | APPLICANT Eckstein et al. | |
| | | | | FILING DATE May 13, 1999 | GROUP 3628 3754 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| EK | AA | 3,765,644 | 10/16/1973 | Zeuner | — | — | |
| EK | AB | 4,207,917 | 06/17/1980 | Opel et al. | — | — | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | |
| | AG | | | | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |
| | AI | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|----|----|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| EK | AL | 2 475 180 | 08/07/1981 | France patent application | — | — | | XX |
| ↑ | AM | DE 3127913 A1 | 01/27/1983 | German patent application | — | — | | XX |
| ↓ | AN | EP 0 893 609 A2 | 01/27/1999 | European patent application | — | — | | XX |
| EK | AO | EP 0 896 178 A2 | 02/10/1999 | European patent application | — | — | | XX |
| | AP | | | | | | | |
| | AQ | | | | | | | |

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | AR | | |
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EXAMINER *Eric Nease*

DATE CONSIDERED

30 NOV 00

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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| 1 | A... | 1 |
| 2 | REM | 1 |
| 3 | LET. | 1 |

Total number of pages: 3

Remarks:

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